AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9.(Currently Amended) A method for controlled closing of a threaded end of a container with a threaded cap, the method comprising:
moving said container to a cap feeding station and placing the threaded cap on the threaded end of said container;
moving said container with said cap to a closing station, and screwing said cap onto said threaded end of said container for a ~~predetermined number of rotations or a~~ selected rotation time;
detecting, during the cap screwing step, the instant value of the torque applied to said cap and comparing said instant value with at least one pre-selected threshold torque value; and,
near the end of the selected rotation time, determining if a correct closure of said container has occurred in relation to reaching or exceeding said selected threshold torque value ~~near the end of the predetermined rotation or near the end of the selected rotation time~~, incorrect closure determined if the threshold torque value is not reached or if the threshold torque value is reached before ~~substantial completion of the predetermined rotations or substantially before~~ the selected time has elapsed.

10.(Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein detecting the instant torque value includes converting said instant torque value into an electric signal and sending said electric signal to a control unit.

11.(Currently Amended) A device used for controlled closing of a threaded end of a container with a threaded cap, the device consisting essentially of ~~comprising~~:
chuck means for retaining, with friction, a threaded cap to be placed on the

threaded end of the container;
motor means connected to said chuck means for rotating said chuck means and said threaded cap in a direction for screwing said cap onto said container, the motor means set to ~~complete a predetermined number of rotations or to~~ operate for a selected rotation time;
torque detecting means situated between said motor means and said chuck means for measuring an instant value of a torque applied to said cap during rotation of the chuck means; and
a control unit connected to said torque detecting means, the control unit receiving said instant torque value and comparing the instant torque value with a selected threshold value, the control unit determining if a correct closure of said container has occurred in relation to reaching or exceeding said selected threshold torque value ~~near the end of the predetermined rotations or~~ near the end of the selected rotation time, the control unit signaling an incorrect closure <u>after the selected time has elapsed,</u> if the threshold torque value is not reached or if the threshold torque value is reached ~~before substantial completion of the predetermined rotations or~~ substantially before the selected time has elapsed.

12.(Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 11 wherein said torque detecting means include a torque transducer, connected to a shaft of said motor means and to a stem of said chuck means, the instant value of the torque applied to said cap converted into a corresponding electric signal which is transmitted to said control unit.

13.(Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 11 wherein said motor means is a position controlled electric motor

14.(Previously Presented) A device as claim 11 wherein said motor means is a brushless induction motor.